


		NTSB ID: FTW02LA104		Aircraft Registration Number: N8942F	
		Occurrence Date: 03/27/2002		Most Critical Injury: None	
		Occurrence Type: Accident		Investigated By: NTSB	
Location/Time					
Nearest City/Place Fort Collins		State CO	Zip Code 80524	Local Time 1205	Time Zone MST
Airport Proximity: On Airport		Distance From Landing Facility:		Direction From Airport:	
Aircraft Information Summary					
Aircraft Manufacturer Hughes		Model/Series 269A-1		Type of Aircraft Helicopter	
Sightseeing Flight: No			Air Medical Transport Flight: No		
Narrative					
<p>Brief narrative statement of facts, conditions and circumstances pertinent to the accident/incident:</p> <p>On March 27, 2002, approximately 1205 mountain standard time, a Hughes 269A-1 helicopter, N8942F, was substantially damaged during a loss of control while hovering at the Fort Collins Downtown Airport, near Fort Collins, Colorado. The helicopter was registered to and operated by Freedom Flight Services LLC, of Berthoud, Colorado. The flight instructor and student pilot were not injured. Visual meteorological conditions prevailed, and a flight plan was not filed for the 14 Code of Federal Regulations Part 91 instructional flight. The local flight was originating at the time of the accident.</p> <p>On the Pilot/Operator Aircraft Accident Report (NTSB Form 6120.1/2), and in a telephone interview with the NTSB investigator-in-charge, the instructor pilot reported that the wind was 2 to 3 knots at the time of takeoff, but forecasted to be gusty in the afternoon. Shortly after lifting off and while hovering at an altitude of approximately 3 feet, the helicopter with the student pilot at the flight controls, encountered a very strong gust of wind and began to "wobble." The instructor took control of the helicopter, "picking it up" to approximately 15 feet, when another gust of wind hit the helicopter, turning it sideways, and then downwind. The instructor stated he was attempting "get it on the ground, but the wind continued to drive the helicopter forward with excessive nose over tendency." With the tail rotor into the wind, creating a "high power demand and limited tail rotor authority," the helicopter "skipped" along the dirt 2 or 3 times. The helicopter traveled forward 60 to 70 yards, the right strut failed, and the helicopter rolled over on its right side. The instructor pilot reported the wind was gusting to 60 knots at the time of the accident.</p> <p>At 1215, the reported weather at the Fort Collins-Loveland Municipal Airport, located 8 nm south of the accident site, was wind from 260 degrees at 13 knots gusting to 25 knots, visibility 10 statute miles, sky clear, temperature 19 degrees C, dewpoint minus 6 degrees C, and an altimeter of 29.76 inches of mercury.</p> <p>An FAA inspector, who responded to the accident site, reported that all 3 main rotor blades were destroyed, the fuselage was bent, all Plexiglas broken, and the right skid was separated from the strut.</p>					
FACTUAL REPORT - AVIATION					

 <b>National Transportation Safety Board</b> <b>FACTUAL REPORT</b> <b>AVIATION</b>		NTSB ID: FTW02LA104				
		Occurrence Date: 03/27/2002				
		Occurrence Type: Accident				
<b>Landing Facility/Approach Information</b>						
Airport Name Fort Collins Downtown Airport		Airport ID: 3V5	Airport Elevation 4939 Ft. MSL	Runway Used	Runway Length	Runway Width
Runway Surface Type:						
Runway Surface Condition:						
Type Instrument Approach: NONE						
VFR Approach/Landing: None						
<b>Aircraft Information</b>						
Aircraft Manufacturer Hughes		Model/Series 269A-1		Serial Number 1500019		
Airworthiness Certificate(s): Normal						
Landing Gear Type: Skid						
Homebuilt Aircraft? No		Number of Seats: 2	Certified Max Gross Wt. 1670 LBS	Number of Engines: 1		
Engine Type: Reciprocating		Engine Manufacturer: Lycoming	Model/Series: HIO-360-AIA	Rated Power: 160 HP		
<b>- Aircraft Inspection Information</b>						
Type of Last Inspection Annual		Date of Last Inspection 10/2001	Time Since Last Inspection 50 Hours	Airframe Total Time 2270 Hours		
<b>- Emergency Locator Transmitter (ELT) Information</b>						
ELT Installed? Yes		ELT Operated? Yes	ELT Aided in Locating Accident Site? No			
<b>Owner/Operator Information</b>						
Registered Aircraft Owner  Freedom Flight Services LLC		Street Address 22748 Country Road 3				
		City Bethoud	State CO	Zip Code 80513		
Operator of Aircraft  Same as Reg'd Aircraft Owner		Street Address				
		City	State	Zip Code		
Operator Does Business As:			Operator Designator Code:			
<b>- Type of U.S. Certificate(s) Held: None</b>						
Air Carrier Operating Certificate(s):						
Operating Certificate:			Operator Certificate:			
Regulation Flight Conducted Under: Part 91: General Aviation						
Type of Flight Operation Conducted: Instructional						
<div style="text-align: center;">FACTUAL REPORT - AVIATION</div> <div style="text-align: right;">Page 2</div>						

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<b>First Pilot Information</b>																																																																																				
Name		City		State	Date of Birth	Age																																																																														
On File		On File		On File	On File	42																																																																														
Sex: M	Seat Occupied: Left	Principal Profession: Business			Certificate Number: On File																																																																															
Certificate(s): Flight Instructor; Commercial																																																																																				
Airplane Rating(s): Multi-engine Land; Single-engine Land																																																																																				
Rotorcraft/Glider/LTA: Helicopter																																																																																				
Instrument Rating(s): None																																																																																				
Instructor Rating(s): Helicopter																																																																																				
Type Rating/Endorsement for Accident/Incident Aircraft? No				Current Biennial Flight Review? 10/2001																																																																																
Medical Cert.: Class 2		Medical Cert. Status: With Waivers/Limitations			Date of Last Medical Exam: 09/2001																																																																															
<table border="1"> <tr> <th rowspan="2">- Flight Time Matrix</th> <th rowspan="2">All A/C</th> <th rowspan="2">This Make and Model</th> <th rowspan="2">Airplane Single Engine</th> <th rowspan="2">Airplane Multi-Engine</th> <th rowspan="2">Night</th> <th colspan="2">Instrument</th> <th rowspan="2">Rotorcraft</th> <th rowspan="2">Glider</th> <th rowspan="2">Lighter Than Air</th> </tr> <tr> <th>Actual</th> <th>Simulated</th> </tr> <tr> <td>Total Time</td> <td>1500</td> <td>400</td> <td>60</td> <td>50</td> <td>100</td> <td></td> <td>1300</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pilot In Command(PIC)</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Instructor</td> <td>800</td> <td>350</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Last 90 Days</td> <td>300</td> <td>60</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Last 30 Days</td> <td>100</td> <td>20</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Last 24 Hours</td> <td>8</td> <td>8</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table>						- Flight Time Matrix	All A/C	This Make and Model	Airplane Single Engine	Airplane Multi-Engine	Night	Instrument		Rotorcraft	Glider	Lighter Than Air	Actual	Simulated	Total Time	1500	400	60	50	100		1300				Pilot In Command(PIC)											Instructor	800	350									Last 90 Days	300	60									Last 30 Days	100	20									Last 24 Hours	8	8								
- Flight Time Matrix	All A/C	This Make and Model	Airplane Single Engine	Airplane Multi-Engine	Night							Instrument					Rotorcraft	Glider	Lighter Than Air																																																																	
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Seatbelt Used? Yes		Shoulder Harness Used? Yes		Toxicology Performed? No		Second Pilot? Yes																																																																														
<b>Flight Plan/Itinerary</b>																																																																																				
Type of Flight Plan Filed: None																																																																																				
Departure Point		State	Airport Identifier	Departure Time	Time Zone																																																																															
Fort Collins		CO	3V5	1205	MST																																																																															
Destination		State	Airport Identifier																																																																																	
Local Flight																																																																																				
Type of Clearance: None																																																																																				
Type of Airspace: Class G																																																																																				
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Source of Briefing: Internet																																																																																				
Method of Briefing: Telephone																																																																																				
<div>FACTUAL REPORT - AVIATION</div> <div>Page 3</div>																																																																																				


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		Occurrence Type: Accident	

<b>Weather Information</b>					
WOF ID	Observation Time	Time Zone	WOF Elevation	WOF Distance From Accident Site	Direction From Accident Site
FNL	1215	MST	4939 Ft. MSL	8 NM	180 Deg. Mag.
Sky/Lowest Cloud Condition: Clear			Ft. AGL	Condition of Light: Day	
Lowest Ceiling: None			Ft. AGL	Visibility: 10 SM	Altimeter: 29.76 "Hg
Temperature: 19 °C	Dew Point: -6 °C	Wind Direction: 260		Density Altitude: 6756 Ft.	
Wind Speed: 13	Gusts: 25	Weather Conditions at Accident Site: Visual Conditions			
Visibility (RVR): Ft.	Visibility (RVV) SM	Intensity of Precipitation:			
Restrictions to Visibility: None					
Type of Precipitation: None					

<b>Accident Information</b>					
Aircraft Damage: Substantial		Aircraft Fire: None		Aircraft Explosion: None	
Classification: U.S. Registered/U.S. Soil					
- Injury Summary Matrix	Fatal	Serious	Minor	None	TOTAL
First Pilot					
Second Pilot					
Student Pilot				1	1
Flight Instructor				1	1
Check Pilot					
Flight Engineer					
Cabin Attendants					
Other Crew					
Passengers					
- TOTAL ABOARD -				2	2
Other Ground					
- GRAND TOTAL -				2	2

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FACTUAL REPORT - AVIATION					
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 National Transportation Safety Board <b>FACTUAL REPORT</b> AVIATION	NTSB ID: FTW02LA104	
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	Occurrence Type: Accident	
Administrative Information		
<p>Investigator-In-Charge (IIC)</p> <p>Thomas M. Little</p>		
<p>Additional Persons Participating in This Accident/Incident Investigation:</p> <p>James Hopkins Aviation Safety Inspector Federal Aviation Administration 26805 East 68th Avenue, Suite 200 Denver, CO 80249</p>		
<p>FACTUAL REPORT - AVIATION</p> <p>Page 5</p>		